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Graphing Calculator: Graphing Inequality Functions (12/94)

Article Created: 12 December 1994

TOPIC -----

My customer is a university math professor who uses the Graphing Calculator through an overhead projector in his classroom of 400+ students.

The Graphing Calculator appears not to accept the "less than or equal to" (\leq) or "greater than or equal to" (\geq) operators. If you press option-< or option->, nothing appears in the equation box. He wants to graph inequalities beyond " $y > x + 2$ " and enter something like " $y \geq 4x$ ". Graphing Calculator help says it can graph inequalities and simple algebra.

Is support for the \leq and the \geq hidden from the user or unavailable altogether? What other operators are unavailable?

DISCUSSION -----

Here is the answer I received from Engineering:

Graphing Calculator can graph functions of x , functions of x and y , and inequalities. The $=$ and $<$ characters denote equalities. Therefore, the \leq and \geq characters are unavailable altogether in Graphing Calculator.

There are ways to graph inequalities. For example, you cannot graph $x = y$, but you can graph $|x - y| < 0$, which is the same thing. To do this, you must turn on Honest 2D Plotting.

Engineering stated that if an operator is not in the Graphing Calculator help screen (accessible from the Balloon Help menu), then Graphing Calculator cannot do it. Graphing Calculator was included with the Power Macintosh to show the potential of the PowerPC chip and no Apple resources are currently allocated for development of a future version.

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Keywords: kppc

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19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 16871